

## Amusements.

AMERICAN THEATRE.—8.—The Prodigal Daughter.  
 BROADWAY THEATRE.—8.15.—A Texas Tragedy.  
 BROADWAY THEATRE.—8.15.—Pamphile.  
 CANTO.—8.15.—Adonis.  
 COLUMBIAN THEATRE.—8.—Hermann.  
 DAILY THEATRE.—8.15.—Keller.  
 EMPIRE THEATRE.—8.15.—The Girl I Let Behind Me.  
 FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.—8.15.—The Heart.  
 GARDEN THEATRE.—8.—Robt. Hood.  
 GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—8.15.—Marta.  
 GRAND CENTRAL PALACE.—Press Club Fair.  
 HARTMAN OPERA HOUSE.—8.15.—Hess and Hess.  
 HAYES MADISON SQUARE THEATRE.—8.30.—A Trip to Chicago.  
 KOSTER & BIALS.—2.30.—8.—Vendeville.  
 PALMER'S THEATRE.—8.—1907.  
 STANDARD THEATRE.—8.15.—No. 3 A.  
 STAR THEATRE.—8.15.—A Nod Blue Jeans.  
 14TH STREET THEATRE.—8.—Blue Jeans.

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Hulse and Murphy, they were armed with revolvers taken from their custodians. No pistol was found on Roehl's body, but in Pallister's pocket was one, fully loaded. Murphy, who has been discharged from the prison service, now affirms that he had no pistol with him when he entered the death-house on the night of the escape. Hence the theory that Pallister shot Roehl after a quarrel and subsequently took his own life must be abandoned. Possibly the refugees were mistaken for river pirates, and were shot on attempting to board some vessel. At any rate, the mystery surrounding them remains a mystery, and there is a small chance of elucidating it.

## AN UNANSWERABLE INDICIMENT.

The address "to the electors of the State of New-York," which is printed upon another page, is a document as timely as its weight. It ought to be attentively read by every citizen who desires to conserve the welfare of our Commonwealth. It is a well-considered review of the course pursued by the responsible majority at Albany last winter, by a committee of the minority which was appointed immediately after the final adjournment. The committee has done its work well, thereby rendering the public a valuable service.

The record of the Democratic Legislature of 1893 was one of extravagance, neglect of needed legislation, and invasion of the fundamental rights of cities. That is the grave indictment which the committee draws against the majority, and which it makes good by counts that cannot be successfully assailed. It was a fraudulent majority. Three Democrats sat in the Senate all of whom had been defeated at the polls—sat there not in accordance with but in palpable defiance of the will of the people plainly declared. So too seven Democratic Senators in the Assembly under an apportionment which was branded as dishonest and unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals. It was a reckless and improvident majority. It increased the tax rate from 13.8 mills in 1891 when the Senate was Republican, to 2.58 mills in 1893. The increase appears the more indefensible in view of the facts that there was a surplus of \$5,000,000 in the Treasury in 1891, that the receipts from the corporation and inheritance tax laws have steadily increased, and that appropriations made by the Legislature of 1893 amounting to some \$2,000,000 will have to be provided for by the next Legislature.

It was a grossly incompetent and unfaithful Legislature. One of the most pressing duties which confronted it when it met last January was the revision of the tax laws. From every section of the State came the cry for a more equitable adjustment of taxes. The Legislature of 1892, in response to this demand, appointed a Tax Commission. This commission, which cost the State \$7,000, reported a carefully prepared law. What did the Legislature of 1893 do with it? Did nothing with it—treated it as though it was so much waste paper. The Legislature of 1892 also appointed a Joint Committee on Taxation of its own members. This commission, whose counsel were paid the exorbitant sum of \$12,000, reported six bills. What did the Legislature of 1893 do with them? Suffered all of them to die in committee. Since 1892, Democratic commission and committee expenses ostensibly looking to taxation reform have taken \$30,000 from the Treasury, but no reform has been accomplished. On the contrary, an important tax measure recommended by Controller Campbell was considered, only to be defeated, while a bill was pushed providing for the exemption of personal property from taxation.

It was notoriously an anti-home rule Legislature. There is no need to enlarge on that grave point. Every intelligent citizen of New-York is familiar with the history of the repeated raids which the last Legislature made upon city charters. It was a Legislature which demonstrated its hostility to fair election methods. It refused to pass a manifestly just and equitable measure, assigning an equal number of election inspectors to the two parties at all polling-places; and it made a base and cowardly attempt aiming at the disfranchisement of rural voters by an unwarrantable extension of the law for personal registration. These are the chief counts of this crushing indictment. No Legislature since the days when Tweed was in control at Albany ever made a worse or a weaker use of its opportunities. From the beginning to the end of the session it steadily betrayed the public weal in order to play into the hands of a gang of unscrupulous partisans. The remedy, of course, is in the voters' hands. They can wipe out the disgrace of 1893 at the capital by sending the Democracy to the rear and electing a Republican Legislature. They owe it to themselves, to their State, to the cause of good government, to make a radical change.

## MORE VOTES THAN VOTERS.

Far from being pleased with the concession of that universal suffrage for which they have been clamoring so loudly and so long, the Socialist leaders in Belgium seem to be deeply aggrieved by the fact that the Government and the Legislature have given them more even than they demanded. They asked for one vote for each male adult, and King Leopold, for which they are noted, has appended his signature to a law whereby men under certain conditions become entitled, not to one, but to two and even three votes. Indeed, at the present moment Belgium presents the strange anomaly of possessing a parliamentary electorate endowed with more votes than voters.

Until a few weeks ago the Belgian franchise was of a most restricted character—the entire electorate being less than 150,000, composed almost exclusively of landowners, wholesale and retail merchants and manufacturers, the masses being entirely without legislative representation, although called upon to contribute toward the support of the Government in the shape of taxes. The new law that has just received the sanction of the King creates an electorate of 1,200,000, that being the number of men in the kingdom over the age of twenty-five years who have not been deprived of their citizenship rights either on account of infraction of the laws or of mental affliction. While the electorate, however, numbers 1,200,000, the votes which they are entitled to cast amount to 1,900,000. This result is arrived at thus: Six hundred and fifty thousand men each have a single vote, while 550,000 will each possess two and even three votes, the total number of votes belonging to the plural and privileged electors being 1,250,000. The dual vote is conferred upon every man who is over thirty-five or who is married. Between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five the married man in Belgium is given twice the electoral power of the bachelor, on the ground that the latter merely represents himself, while the married man represents his wife and children.

It is assumed that after thirty-five the unmarried man will either be about to enter the state of matrimony or else have acquired such fixed and settled habits as to rank him among the conservative forces of the country. Of the whole electorate 65,000 are entitled to the

triple vote by marriage and by property and educational qualifications of a high order.

The object of the Belgian Government in thus providing heads of families, men over the age of thirty-five, and people possessed of much property and great intellectual advantages with plural votes is to convert them into a species of conservative element endowed with sufficient power to act as a bulwark and obstruction against the flood of Socialistic and revolutionary legislation which might otherwise have been expected to follow the concession of universal suffrage to a new-fledged electorate devoid of political education, and hence easily led by professional agitators. And there is every likelihood that this conservative party will not only accomplish the purpose for which it has been created, but that it will also, notwithstanding all predictions to the contrary, possess the requisite elements of finality and stability, since practically there will always be some 700,000 votes arrayed against any scheme of reform having for its object the establishment of simple manhood suffrage in Belgium.

## THE LOOMS AND THE HOMES.

A non-partisan trade journal, explaining the scanty demand for wool, remarks: "Many of the looms have been stopped." There are many people in this prosperous and happy country who do not realize what that simple statement means. The loom is a dispassionate and unfeeling machine. It does not love nor sorrow, and it has not the visible responsibility of father or mother for human lives, and for the education and future happiness of human beings. Yet the silent loom means misery and possibly something worse.

Several hundred looms were stopped in one Eastern establishment last week. Kind-hearted employers made the announcement with deep regret, for they knew, as many readers do not, what it meant. There were three hundred families for whom those flying looms had provided bread and meat, clothing, shelter and the comforts of home. When the looms stopped and suffering walked in at each of three hundred doors. Loving fathers began to dread distress for those who were dearer than life to them. Tender-hearted mothers dreaded the day when the children should cry for bread in vain. No one can tell how much of anxiety and of suffering was wrapped up in the statement that the mill was closed. Where were these looms? Not in their accustomed occupation, for many other mills were closing at the same time, and thousands of competent hands were compelled to search for employment. Not in other manufacturing works, for if they possessed the required skill and knowledge, as many did not, those other employments also were in trouble. In those as well many works had been obliged to close and wait, and thousands of hands were looking in vain for work—that is, for shelter, food and clothing for themselves and their dear ones. Does anybody think of the distress and anxiety which comes to many thousand people at once when the looms stop? Can words describe the weariness and the torture, as the idle men go from place to place, hopelessly and desperately, seeking a chance to keep those alive whose lives and happiness depend upon their labor?

"The looms are stopping" means that thousands of workers begin to trudge from place to place with sad hearts and hungry eyes, knowing that the market for labor is suddenly over-crowded, and yet driven by necessity to fight for a chance to earn daily bread. It means that thousands of families are cast out from comfortable homes, the fruit of honest industry, to live upon charity or not at all. It means that vice and crime gain a terrible purchase and power over the lives of many. It means that souls go down to death, under stress and temptation, which might have been temples of honor and purity and true affection but for the stoppage of the looms.

What can be said of the National policy which proposes to stop looms, and close furnaces and factories by the hundreds, in order that somebody may buy things at lower cost? Is it lower cost, if the Nation pays the happiness of homes by the thousand, and the honor and purity of many lives, besides